Pending Railway Project

*19. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 250 railway projects are pending for long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, since when and whether some of the pending projects pertain to making railways accident free;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken to complete those projects; and

(e) whether his Ministry is contemplating a project for constructing high speed freight traffic corridors and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per Pink Book 2005-06, there are 321 ongoing projects out of which 81 have already been completed and balance 240 are in various stages of progress. The details of these 240 ongoing works with the year of inclusion in the Budget is as under:

Sl.No.	Year of inclusion in Budget	No. of on-going works
1	2	3
1.	1972-73	1
2.	1974-75	1
3.	1981-82	1
4.	1984-85	3
5.	1985-86	1
6.	1989-90	1
7.	1990-91	3
8.	1992-93	6
9.	1993-94	8
10.	1994-95	5
11.	1995-96	12

1	2	3
12.	1996-1997	24
13.	1997-1998	48
14.	1998-1999	11
15.	1999-2000	12
16.	2000-2001	26
17.	2001-2002	8
18.	2002-2003	9
19.	2003-2004	36
20.	2004-2005	5
21.	2005-2006	19

These 240 projects are related to development of rail infrastructure and do not directly pertain to safety. For this large shelf of 240 ongoing projects there is limited availability of resources and projects are being progressed as per the available resources.

(d) A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. These include funding through National Projects, Defence funding, Public Private Partnership, State sharing and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. For the early completion of new line and gauge conversión projects taken up on socio-economic considerations, Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana has been announced. With these initiatives, it is expected that the ongoing projects may get completed in a period of about 5 years.

(e) Yes, Sir. Feasibility Survey for Dedicated Multimodal High Axle Freight Corridor on Eastern and Western Corridors has already been conducted. As per the survey, the cost of these two corridors have been assessed as about Rs..21,140 crore.

Electrification of railway tracks in Punjab and Maharashtra

*20. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;